

THE GRANGE NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 50

Editor: Connie Masters

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A Word From Our Chairman

The Fall has been such a busy, productive period for all of us in The Grange. The Peek Preview, the visits of the Governor General, the President of Hungary's reception, Prince Charles in the Atrium were all exciting occasions, each one producing panic attacks of some sort, yet all achieving kudos for the house, its contents and its volunteers.

Our latest enterprise, proposed by that team of creative cooks, the Kettledrum Committee, is to give monthly dinners in The Grange for Gallery members and their friends. Seated at a long banqueting table in the Music Room, a superb dinner will be served amidst soft candle light and music. This will, if successful, become a major part of our funding, limited to 35 people, tickets will be \$55.00 per person, \$63.00 including wines. The dates are to be February 27, March 31, April 30, and May 28, 1992.

We have 10 new volunteers and I hope you will all make an effort to show them where the light switches are and the translations, and take time to go over that D'Arcy Boulton Senior, begat D'Arcy Boulton Junior, who in turn produced William Henry, who married Harriette Dixon, who took Goldwin Smith as her second husband. It's confusing when you're new.

The house is now in its Christmas finery and we do know what a special feeling it gives all our visitors. Peggy, Ruth and I all hope that the feeling extends to all of you and that you have a merry time here and at home.

LETTER FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR GENERAL FOLLOWING HIS VISIT TO THE GRANGE ON MONDAY, 23 SEPTEMBER, 1991

Dear Mrs. Aitken:

Gerda and I wish to offer our sincere thanks to you and your team of volunteers for the entertaining and informative tour of The Grange.

We particularly enjoyed meeting each of the guides. All of you made us feel most welcome.

Please accept our best wishes for the future and extend our congratulations to all the volunteers for their work in preserving such a valuable part of our heritage.

Yours sincerely,
Ramon John Hnatyshyn.



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LETTER TO DIANA WEATHERALL FROM JANE AITKEN, CHAIRMAN OF THE GRANGE BOARD

Congratulations! You organized the Governor General's visit marvellously. So many little details were well covered and everything went like clockwork, and they over-stayed their schedule by ten minutes!

Mary Aziz created all the flower arrangements, and they looked terrific - Mrs. Hnatyshyn said so.

All the volunteers in the rooms (Lucienne Watt, Jane Heinemann, Bev. Sutton, Dinah Draper, Annie O'Brian, Connie Masters, Jean Gray, Heather Kalil) were word perfect - interesting and not too long. Dinah Draper opened the champagne, and the toasts went well. The Governor General spent some time looking through the visitors' book for his predecessors' names.

The Kettledrum excelled themselves - sandwiches, lemon tarts, fruitcake, shortbread, etc. The watercress sandwiches were a particular hit with one of the RCMP security officers, and he went home to tell his wife about them!

So sorry you weren't able to be there - the Governor General and his lady were friendly and interested, the house looked wonderful, and the volunteers were the best and you would have been proud and pleased.

The lady-in-waiting took 6 copies of The Grange booklet that had been left on the library table for that purpose.

VIRTUE REWARDED - OR VOLUNTEER, IT'S GOOD FOR YOUR HEALTH

Through volunteer work people can acquire valuable interpersonal skills that enable them to deal more effectively with other people, and to cope with difficulties more confidently. But - there is a more dramatic reward. According to American Health Magazine, volunteering may well result in a longer and healthier life. Recent scientific studies examining the relationship between volunteer activity and physical health have revealed that 'Doing good may be good for your heart, your immune system, and your overall vitality.' In an article in "Advance", published by New York's Institute for the Advancement of Health, Dr. Howard E. Andrews concludes 'volunteer activity, particularly when it is performed frequently and directed towards strangers, can be added to the growing list of life-style and social network factors associated with physical and mental well-being.'

Now - aren't you glad you volunteered in The Grange?



ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

New faces at The Grange:

Wednesday : Ellen Young
Lotte Rothenbacher

Thursday : Heather Nigh
Frances Dankerey

Friday : Connie Yeh

Sunday : Edna Rigby, Jeff McAlpine.
Irene Hanuta
Roxanne Chee

Kettledrum : Pamela Anderson

Departing:

Ann Molesworth, a long time Wednesday volunteer, and library representative on The Grange Executive Committee, has left us. She will be much missed by the Wednesday Grangers, and by our Chairman, Diana Weatherall, who benefitted greatly from Ann's sage advice on book acquisitions for the library.

GRANGE TRAINING AND ENRICHMENT

Florence Watts, our Training Chairman, and her committee, Diana Weatherall, Anne Hope-Brown, Christine Taylor, Marguerite Larkin and Helvi Hunter, have put their heads together and have come up with two interesting enrichment sessions in the new year:

Monday, January 20 - 11:00 am. a 1½ hour workshop on the 19th century kitchen with Ruth Keene, our unrivalled authority on 19th century life.

Break for lunch - AGO cafe is now open if you wish to have lunch there, but we suggest a brown bag lunch.

1:00 pm. Greg Purmal, Archaeology Resource Centre, City of Toronto. Greg has been digging up Toronto for 6 years, and has unearthed lots of interesting finds from our past. Hour long talk with slides.

Monday, March 9 - 11:00 am. (Tentative) Grange costumier, Jean Gray on 19th century costume.

Break for lunch .

1:00 pm. Grange Librarian, Mary Ash, has prepared an interesting slide talk on Goldwin Smith, the last resident of The Grange.

A list will be posted on the bulletin board in the staff sitting room for those who will be attending to sign.



GRANGE ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE TO AN HISTORIC SITE

On May 13, The Grange annual pilgrimage of discovery and exploration into things historical took us east to the Peterborough area. Departure time from the bus station at St. Clair and Pleasant Blvd., was at 8:30 am., and no one missed the bus although one tripper (who will remain forever anonymous) was found wandering along St. Clair Avenue, lost and disconsolate just as the bus got underway. A last minute rescue!

Our merry, adventurous band first stopped at the famous hydraulic lift lock at Peterborough, the largest in the world, and visited the excellent museum associated with the site. Then it was on to a tour of Lakefield where we stopped at historic Christ Church with its associations with Catherine Parr Trail. Many of the town's early settlers lie in its shady old cemetery. A group photograph was taken in the churchyard before we left for the Peterborough Golf and Country Club and LUNCH, always an important part of any adventure.

Following lunch we arrived at the main objective of our outing - the house built in 1836 by the citizens of Peterborough for their popular doctor, John Hutchison. He eventually gave his life to their care, dying in 1847 during a typhus epidemic. The house was bequeathed to the Peterborough Historical Society in 1969. Once again, local citizens donated time and funds to the Hutchison House, restoring it to its original state, including Dr. Hutchison's surgery complete with the medical instruments he would have used. The guides were friendly and informative, and following the tour we were given a simply scrumptious tea in the garden. Here we were joined by Professor Michael Peterman of Trent University, who entertained us with a lively talk on the Strickland sisters - Susanna Moodie and Catherine Parr Trail. Incidentally, Professor Peterman has been secured for one of The Grange spring luncheon/lectures. His subject - the Stricklands, of course!

The explorers returned to Toronto about 6:30 pm., all agreeing that the 1991 Grange expedition had been a thoroughly enjoyable occasion. Three cheers and a pat on the back to Florence Watts who arranges these jolly outings for us as part of her duties as Grange Training Chairman.

TORONTO HISTORICAL BOARD APPOINTMENT

Among the four new members that have been appointed recently to the Toronto Historical Board is the AGO's own Dr. Katharine Lochnan, Curator of Prints and Drawings. She has worked with the THB on researching the streetscape listing of Mackenzie Crescent in Rosedale.

GOD BLESS AMERICA - and all those wonderful tourists!

Latest note of appreciation comes from the AGO's Visitors' Comment Book: Saturday, 19 October - "The women in The Grange were extraordinarily informative and gracious." (Michigan).



The following historical note from The Grange Newsletter of June, 1989, is being repeated as the question of The Grange carpeting was raised during the training program on Saturday, 23rd November.

WALL-TO-WALL CARPETING - AN ANACHRONISM IN THE GRANGE? NEVER!

How many of us have had visitors look askance at the wall-to-wall carpeting in The Grange, and question its authenticity in an early 19th century house? Well, no need to shuffle our feet and mumble. In England, the practice of 'fitting a room' (the term wall-to-wall was not used) with a carpet was well-known in the homes of the wealthy by the early 1700's. We find Benjamin Franklin sending some carpeting from London to Philadelphia in 1758, and explaining in a letter to his wife that 'it has to be sew'd together, the edges being first fell'd down and are taken to make the figures meet exactly.' Another write of the time remarks 'It is the custom almost universally to cover a room entirely.' It is understandable that the fashion would catch on quickly as the added warmth carpeting over bare floors gave to inadequately heated houses must have been considerable.

The first carpets brought to English Canada were imported from Britain where the carpet-making industry was flourishing by the end of the 18th century. Although solid colours were known, patterns - florals, geometrics, laurels - were the rule. The finishing touch was often a border in a contrasting pattern.

Fitted carpeting spread to less affluent homes with the invention of more efficient looms which allowed unskilled weavers to produce complex patterns. The invention of the power loom transformed the industry, and we read that "after 1850 practically every home had carpets from wall to wall."

Also arising from the training session - forbidden words for Grange Historic Interpreters.

wall-to-wall carpeting or broadloom	- say fitted carpet
Master bedroom	- say best bedroom
Chesterfield	- say sofa
drapes	- say curtains
wheels (on furniture)	- say castors
mirror	- say looking glass

The Grange - Suddenly It's Sizzling

Can it be that there was a time not long ago when Grangers bemoaned the lack of attention the house received? Since the opening of the Atrium and our re-connection with the AGO how things have changed! Recent weeks have been fraught with a Peek Preview, multitudinous meetings, onslaughts of visitors, the Governor General's visit, and then on Friday, October 25 - H.R.H. Prince Charles on our doorstep!

As most of you are aware, during the recent Royal Visit to Toronto, Prince Charles came to the AGO for a reception in the Atrium to meet many of Ontario's prominent architects (The Grange's own Peter Stokes was included). Shirley Orr reports that it was an unforgettable day for the Friday volunteers with "two excited school tours, a group of prestigious architects enroute to the reception - and endless security. We had both anxious and hilarious moments - all memorable."

At first the RCMP frowned on any peeking from The Grange windows and doors, but later security was relaxed, and volunteers were able to enjoy an unrestricted view of the proceedings. They noted that Prince Charles had nothing but a cup of tea. When the reception was over, the official party moved off to the AGO vaults where the Prince was shown our Inuit collection, and The Grange volunteers whisked over to the Walker Court to be on hand for the Prince's departure. Then came the magic moment. As Shirley Orr describes it, "Karen Haslam, Ontario's Minister of Culture, may have enacted Cinderella at the AGO entrance (when she lost her shoe, and Prince Charles very gallantly retrieved it) but at the end of the day it was Camelot when for a brief shining moment The Grange servants became 'the privileged few'."* The Prince did not just pass them by with a smile, but stopped and chatted with the group, even apologizing for delaying their departure for home. He left behind him some very excited ladies quite bedazzled by the Windsor charm. For new volunteer Connie Yeh, it was a remarkable first day in The Grange. Not surprisingly, the Friday group are the envy of all the other days.

*"The Privileged Few" is the title of John Lownsborough's definitive book on the Boultons and The Grange.

